

533 GRANT PLACE  
CHICAGO,  
ILLINOIS



Miss Lucy B. Stephens,  
1300 Clay St.,  
Lynchburg Va.





**PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT**  
**The Wm. T. Stead Memorial Center**

Incorporated Under Illinois Laws

**NOT FOR PROFIT**

**583 Grant Place,  
CHICAGO, ILL.**

From Mrs. Cecil M. Cook,  
The Wm. T. Stead Center,  
Chicago, Illinois.

If I could send you a key that would unlock the chambers of the greatest happiness, the greatest riches and the greatest fame, I believe you would desire that key without respect to its cost.

I believe that few persons witness more of the aspirations, ~~the~~ and despairs of mortals than I. To my seance-room, come a continuous procession of men and women who have desires that are unfulfilled. This world is a sphere of unfulfilled desires.

Many folk wish to know if certain investments will be profitable; others are uncertain as to embarking in various business enterprises. They are always searching for something BETTER.

Mingled with their spiritual desires, are material ambitions.

Often, one's work in this world demands material facilities. Some men and women live their missions through the performance of definite world-duties. Some are builders, just as others are teachers.

Truly, our daily work is part of our EXPERIENCE--and I believe that to many comes the TEST of living right lives under the temptations of material success, while to others comes the test of hardship. But I do not believe that hardship and suffering are ordained by God. They are results of our own material errors--and as we learn more of the truth of the Law of Life, we shall be permitted to lift ourselves out of our misery.

Our beloved guides come to us to help us gain through our experience. We are in a material world--with material needs--and MASTERY over the material need not imply indifference to material requirements.

I know that money-making is regarded by the majority of folk as paramount--and because that is so, money-making often is condemned.

During my many years of public service as a medium, I have witnessed many examples of progress of men and women who called upon their guides--who were willing to do their part.

It is with regret that I have seen many of these men and women forsake their spiritual blessings when their material gains came to them. They failed in their test.

Mr. S. came to my seance-room poor and struggling. He was ambitious and he was spiritual. He asked his guides for material help, and to the best of his ability, he followed their advice. Within two years, this man was worth about two hundred thousand dollars.

Now, many persons will say, "Spiritualism should stand for MORE than that. It should frown upon all material success." My observation does not endorse such statements, because frequently the severest of all tests, is the test of material success.

God gave us, in this beautiful earth-world, every facility, every opportunity to better our condition. To those who sought success rightly, success came without the forfeiture of happiness. To those who sought success for the glory of material gain only, came that gain without happiness.

Mr. R. had a manufacturing plan--without backers. He was really to the end of his string. His guides advised him, and he followed their advice. Within a few months, fortune was piling up for him. But--his spirituality increased rather than diminished. To him, gain was a normal condition. Was it wrong that he should succeed materially? I think not.



Mr. T. came to us without money--discouraged--a failure. He was an inventor, and as an inventor he was a failure. But his guides told him to try ONCE MORE. He did, and the result of his invention is a rapidly-growing fortune.

The spirit-world DOES bring us success as we merit it--but the spirit-world also has the power to take from us that which we did not merit. Success and failure alternate, like sunshine and showers--like day and night. They are natural mortal results proceeding from definite causes.

My seance-room is a panorama of human hopes and despairs. To it come the disconsolate, seeking only the knowledge that the dear ones who have passed through the door of death, still live.

To my seance-room come students, wishing only to succeed in their studies--and the sick who desire nothing greater than health--and the discouraged, asking for one little ray of sustaining hope--and the prosperous and arrogant who would impress the spirit-world with their pomp and importance!

It seems to me that I see human nature in all its phases--with its deceit and with its beauty of character; in all moods, under all conditions.

Through these years of public service in my work, it has been my privilege to trace the careers of many men and women who have come to the STEAD CENTER. I have watched their progress and their retrogression.

I have seen the fortune-hunters and I have seen the heart-broken--because my seance-room is a cross-roads where all types and classes meet and pass.

As my observations have grown with the passing years, I have become slow to judge--disinclined to condemn either the rich or the poor, knowing that unto each must come the experiences that each requires.

I have witnessed the courses of many who have fought for fortune--and who would risk all on some worthless investment--on some dishonest speculation. I have heard them rebuke their guides for warning them against what seemed like "a golden opportunity."

And seeing all this, I have wondered why men and women who would go to any lengths to gain materially, could not see that if they would learn HOW to keep close to their guides, their impressions as to material things would be as unerring as their impressions of spiritual things. For is not the spiritual gained through this experience in the flesh, with its material environs and its material duties?

I say to so many, "Keep close to your guides. Learn to receive and interpret their impressions."

And as truly as these folk lived close to their guides, as they opened their minds and their hearts to their guides, though they never were in the seance-room, they gained in JUDGMENT!

I ask you to trace these steps of logic, that I feel sure you will recognize as dependable:

YOU are a spirit. Your mind is of your spirit; your thoughts are of your spirit. They are part of YOURSELF! Is that not true?

What is your judgment but an expression of your OWN intellect--your own SPIRIT? What is sound judgment but dependence on your spiritual impulses?

What gain can you make materially or spiritually, unless the RESPONSIVENESS of your spirit directs you?

A few men and women have written to me, in response to my letter regarding our Oriental Lessons, and have said something like this:

"I have so many every-day needs, I can not afford to spend ten dollars a year for these studies. It seems to me that my expenses never end; they keep me so busy, I can not study!"

Little do they suspect that IF they did study more diligently, if they learned how to open their souls to spirit-guidance, their thought-power would be directed more accurately, their impressions would be more dependable, and their lot would be easier!

THIS world is the school-house of the spirit. And the means of gaining knowledge include dollars as well as texts--property as well as lectures and sermons--SUCCESS the same as failure!

The spirit-world has never asked us to NOT employ these material things in our progress. How can we escape them? Nor have our loved ones in spirit ever told us to be-



come so weak as to be imposed upon--so mentally incompetent as to refuse to be wardens of our material possessions.

There can be ABUSE of our thought-force just the same as there may be abuse of wealth. But the NORMAL USE of all things which God has provided, helps round out a normal, progressive life!

Our Oriental Lessons, of which I have told you before, and of which I remind you now, are not like ordinary lessons. They help you OPEN your mind to guidance--the guidance that teaches you right from wrong, that saves you blundering into painful error, and that teaches you how to succeed.

What is it, pray, that distinguishes the successful person from the unsuccessful? It is JUDGMENT chiefly--and judgment is typified by IMPRESSIONS, or as the world calls them crudely, "hunches."

The closer we live to our guides, the easier it is for them to IMPRESS us. We FEEL that this so-styled opportunity is false--and that another is worthy.

Why do we find such willingness to put many dollars--hundreds or thousands--into a business venture, when perhaps we are trusting blindly; and then refuse to put ten dollars into our own development that will lead us to clearer judgment and greater success? Why do mortals so isolate themselves from the forces that can help them, to follow their own opinions that so often prove wrong?

I could point out to you MANY men and women who strive at all times to live close to their guides, and to open their minds and their hearts to their guides, whose business instincts are almost mysteriously unerring.

I could introduce you to many persons who strive at all times to live so close to their guides, they ESCAPE the commercial disasters that overwhelm so many others.

You say that you have no time to study--or no inclination--or can not afford it. But--I wish to ask you this question: "Why does one person succeed by learning THE RIGHT WAY, while many others fail by stumbling along blindly in the WRONG way?"

One man toils without rest--and never gets ahead. Another studies methods, learns a business thoroughly, and succeeds. One man tries to lift a dead weight with his hands, and the other raises it by employing machinery!

What difference exists between these examples and the following?

One person develops persistently and eagerly--and finds that his impressions, his judgment, as to things commercial and spiritual, become more accurate--while the other, disdainful of study and development, "trusts to luck" and loses more times than he wins!

Just as truly as there must be the right conception of spiritual truths to develop spiritually, so must there be the proper use of things material to develop spiritually. There is no reason to believe that God has forbidden material success, or that He has ever caused His Law of Compensation to strike at those who succeed honestly. This is true, because often the greatest spiritual progress in this earth-world, is made through properly handling our material opportunities.

I believe that, as we learn how to depend upon our guides, how to ask our loved ones in spirit to direct us in our earthly affairs, our judgment must become sound and our success must be greater.

But if you exercise only three or four times a year, would you be an athlete? If you turn to spiritual truths only now and then, can you expect to develop your SPIRITUAL INTUITION?

If you do not study--and THINK about these greater truths of LIFE--are you going to benefit through the existence of these truths? There are deposits of gold somewhere in the mountains--but what good does that gold do any man until its discovery has occurred?

What satisfaction is there in realizing that there ARE spiritual truths, unless you form the healthy practice of LEARNING those truths?

Do you feel now, that the study of LIFE itself is such a fearful, unprofitable waste?

Prolonged experience and observation have taught me that the person who has opened his or her heart to the spirit-world, NEEDS NO DIRECT ADVICE on any subject--but will SENSE the right thing to do by calling upon the loved ones in spirit for direction and guidance.

TWELVE TIMES a year, our Oriental Lessons come to you--and as you study them, they



help you develop an OPEN MIND, that surely must sense more quickly and accurately the impressions your loved ones in spirit are sending to you. Do you believe for a moment that there can be any happiness to those dear ones to see you fail, to see you in want, to see your misery? Not in the least! But until you have learned how to CO-OPERATE WITH NATURAL LAW, even their great desires to see you successful and happy, can not bear fruit.

Many members of our Oriental Class already are finding that STUDY and CONTEMPLATION of the truths that are coming to them through the vehicle of these Oriental Lessons, are opening their minds to the receipt of the right impressions. They are finding that their own efforts alone will put them "en rapport" with their spirit guides--and that frequent reference to and contemplation of the truths of these lessons, form the basis of a genuinely helpful and building EXERCISE OF THEIR INTELLECTS.

They are beginning to appreciate the fact that, first of all, knowledge must belong to the SPIRIT, and that only as they open the doors between their spirit-knowledge and their mortal processes of thought, do they CARRY OUT that which their spirits sense and comprehend.

These monthly Oriental Lessons consist of the following parts:

The lessons, from shorthand notes taken down in the seance-room, comprising a four-page document the size of this letter;

A letter, of the same size, tracing the connections between these monthly lessons and the Teachings in "God's World;"

A Question-and-Answer part of several pages, based on questions asked by members of this Class--together with the answers. These questions are related to innumerable phases of the Teachings;

A Self-examination section, to help you THINK in the terms of the Teachings;

The privilege of asking up to ten questions each month on subjects related to this philosophy--which will be answered in the Questions-and-Answers department.

Coming to you monthly, these instructions help you DEVELOP, because they keep you in TOUCH with these teachings. They are like regular exercise. They are bringing their help to you each and every month.

I ask you if you believe that you are really contributing very much when you send ten dollars for these monthly lessons for a year. Suppose this study helps you develop your INTUITIVE SENSE to a point where your IMPRESSIONS will save you many a loss; do you feel that you could make any investment for twenty times this small contribution that would have more material worth?

And beyond the material aspects of these impressions, is not the UNFOLDMENT of your own mental and spiritual forces worth something? Who gains but YOU?

If you could read some of the many beautiful letters I am receiving about these Lessons, you would not hesitate a moment to enroll--and receive an Associate Membership card of THE WILLIAM T. STEAD MEMORIAL CENTER for one year.

I know that once you have regarded this subject of these helpful, co-operative Lessons in the right light, you will feel that no matter of greater importance is before you.

And--remember that your dollars are not paying profits to any individual; they are helping us carry these truths to many others.

I know that the answer to this letter is in your mind NOW.

The enclosed enrollment form is at your service.

What IS your answer?

With my kindest wishes, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

*Mrs. Cecil M. Cook*

Pastor and Medium,  
THE WILLIAM T. STEAD MEMORIAL CENTER.



# ENROLLMENT

AND

## ASSOCIATE MEMBER FORM

*The*

WM. T. STEAD MEMORIAL CENTER

---

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

MRS. CECIL M. COOK,

Pastor and Medium,

THE STEAD CENTER,

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Dear Mrs. Cook:

I am enclosing my remittance for \$10.00 as my contribution for the special Oriental lessons described in your correspondence, at the rate of one lesson a month for twelve consecutive months. I am also to receive an Associate Member Certificate in The Wm. T. Stead Memorial Center.

Please address all of the lessons to:

Very sincerely yours,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street No.  
or R. F. D. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

